



Issues Impacting County Government

Agriculture

CAFO's
Farm Land Preservation
Farm Markets/Wineries/Tourism

Courts

Abuse & Neglect
Bail Bonds
Child Welfare
Circuit Court
Costs, Fees, & Fines
Criminal Procedure
District Court
Documents/Records
Family Law
Friend of the Court
Indigent Defense
Judicial Tenure/Salary
Jury Issues
Juvenile Court
Probate Court
Probation
Prosecutor
Specialty Courts
Video Requirements

Economic Development

Authorities
Brownfields
DDAs
Housing Issues
Land Banks
Placemaking
TIFAs
Tourism
Zones (Renaissance, Neighborhood)

Environmental

Air Pollution
Bovine TB
Brownfields
Drains
Dredging
Fracking
Gas & Oil
Indoor Air Quality

Invasive Species
Landfills
Low-Level Radioactive Waste
Mineral Rights
Pest Control (Pesticides)
Recycling
Scrap Tires
Septage Waste
Severance Tax
Soil Erosion & Sedimentation
Solid Waste Management
Wetlands

Finance & Budgeting

Audits
Bonding/ Financing Projects & Debt
Budget, Reserves & Balances
Emergency Management
Local Fees
Pension Obligation Bonds

General Government Issues

Animal Shelters
Cemeteries
County Commissioners

County Elected Officials

Clerks
Executive
Prosecutor
Register of Deeds
Sheriff
Treasurer

Digital Records/Technology Requirements
Disaster Management
Elections
FOIA
Golf Courses
Intergovernmental Cooperation
Open Meetings Act/Public Notices
Planning & Zoning
Regionalism
Remonumentation
Tribal Agreements
Unfunded Mandates

Health & Human Services

ACA Implementation
EMS
Foster Care
Home Health Agencies
Indigent Burials
Medicaid
Medical Care Facilities
Medical Examiners
Mental Health
Public Health Department
Seniors/Aging
Substance Abuse Treatment
Veterans

Public Health

Health Screening
Immunizations
Infectious Disease Control
Restaurant Inspections
STD Testing
Water Testing

Labor & Retirement

Arbitration
Labor Contracts
Liabilities (UAL)
Medical Benefit Plans
MERS
Multipliers
Unions
Workers Compensation
Workforce Development
Workforce Investment

Natural Resources

DNR Trust Fund
Hunting, Fishing, Snowmobiles
Lakes & Streams
Land Management
Land Purchase
Land Use
Local Conservation Districts
MSU Extension
Parks & Recreation
Timber Management

Public Safety

911
Act 312
Community Corrections
Contracting with CVT's for law enforcement
Jails

Prisoner Re-Entry
Probation
Public Safety Officers
Secondary Road Patrol
Sentencing Guidelines
Swift & Sure Sanctions (Probation Violations)
Tethering

Tax

Assessing/Assessors
Condemnation
Defending Tax Appeals
Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund
Equalization
Foreclosure
Headlee
Manufactured Housing
Millages
Personal Property Tax
PILT
Property Tax
Sales Tax
Special Assessments
Tax Administration
Tax Exemptions
Tax Tribunal
Use Tax

Transportation

Act 51
Airports
Aviation Fuel
Bike Trails
County Road Commissions
Diesel Tax
Gas Tax
MI Transportation Fund
ORV's
Public Transit
Rails to Transportation
Regional Transit Authority
Registration Fees
Road Kill
Road Maintenance
Sales Tax on Gas
Speed Limits



2015 Priorities

The following list for 2015 represents many of the policy and funding issues MAC is pursuing, but in no way is an exhaustive list of the issues we advocate for on behalf of Michigan's 83 counties.

Maintaining Full Funding for County Revenue Sharing

- Revenue sharing is a statutory obligation on behalf of the state, established in the 1960s when counties gave up local taxing authority.
- Counties made an agreement with the state to forgo revenue sharing to help balance the state's budget with the understanding that full funding would return to each county once their reserve accounts were exhausted. This deal was honored in 2005, but not again until fiscal 2015.
- **MAC will continue to advocate for full county revenue sharing.**

Preventing Future Unfunded Mandates

- In 2009, the Legislative Commission on Unfunded Mandates determined that more than \$2.5 billion in services that can be measured, and billions more that cannot be measured, are provided by local units of government for free to the state of Michigan through unfunded mandates.
- There is little that can be done about past state violations of the Michigan Constitution, however, legislation can, and should, be enacted that would require the Legislature to pay for any new mandates it imposes on counties before compliance would be required.
- **MAC is leading the charge to enact unfunded mandates legislation.**

Advocating for Justice Reinvestment

- Counties fund courts, sheriffs and jails and support creative proposals to address local incarceration and recidivism, as well as prevention programs and services.
- As the state looks at ways to decrease prison system costs and improve public safety, emphasis should be placed at the local level on primary prevention, juvenile education, drug education and effective law enforcement, expanded substance abuse and mental health treatment and community corrections.
- **MAC urges the state to take proactive steps to reduce the probation and parole failure rate before asking counties to take on more offenders at the local level.**

Reforming Tax Capture Statutes

- Currently counties have limited say in the length and financial scope of tax capture districts.
- MAC is working with the House, Senate and the administration to ensure that counties have a voice in the economic development activities in their region by strengthening their voice in the tax capture and abatement process.
- **MAC's goals are to allow counties the opportunity to be partners in economic development; to have the ability to decide how much of their taxes are captured, for what purpose and for how long; and to create greater accountability of tax capture districts.**

Closing the Big Box/Dark Store Tax Loophole

- Many big box retailers have been appealing their property tax assessments to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by challenging the "true cash value" of their properties.
- In the majority of the cases, the valuation methods being put forth equate the value of a vibrant, profitable operating business (Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.) with a closed, dark and abandoned commercial property.
- **MAC is working closely with legislators to find a fair, equitable and consistent way to value these properties so that each business actually pays its share of property taxes.**

Ensuring Consistent and Reliable Transportation Funding

- **MAC supports a "yes" vote on Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot to increase the sales tax rate to create new investments for Michigan roads, to be distributed via the current PA 51 formula.**

MAC Government Team

Tim McGuire, Executive Director

Timothy K. McGuire was chosen as the Executive Director of MAC in 1994. Tim has been the Executive Director of the MAC Service Corporation since its inception in 1984. He served as general counsel to the association from 1982 to 1993. Tim received his B.A. from Auburn University and law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.



Contact: mcguire@micounties.org

Steve Currie, Deputy Director

Steve joined MAC in 2011 as the Deputy Director. Prior to joining MAC, Steve was most recently Operations Manager at Comfort Research in Grand Rapids. He graduated from Hope College with a degree in business administration and also has a master's degree in business administration from Michigan State University.



Issue Areas: Transportation, Veterans, Campaign Finance

Contact: scurrie@micounties.org

Deena Bosworth, Director of Governmental Affairs

Deena joined MAC in 2011. Deena previously served as Director of Legislative Relations for Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, Assistant County Administrator with the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners in Florida and Legislative Director for the Michigan House of Representatives. Deena also was Senior Policy Adviser for the House Majority Caucus before joining MAC. Deena has a B.A. in anthropology from Western Michigan University.



Issue Areas: Tax Policy, Economic Development, Environment, Local Government, Drain Code

Contact: bosworth@micounties.org

Dana Gill, Governmental Affairs Associate

Dana joined MAC in 2013, with more than 10 years of policy, advocacy and client leadership experience. Dana has previously served as a Policy Analyst and Appropriations Coordinator in the Michigan House of Representatives for the Democratic Policy Staff, Director for State Relations at Wayne State University and State Government Affairs Manager in the multi-client sector. Dana has a bachelor's degree in political science from Wayne State University.



Issue Areas: Health and Human Services, Judiciary, Public Safety

Contact: gill@micounties.org

Casey Steffee, Governmental Affairs Assistant

Casey joined MAC in 2014 as Governmental Affairs Assistant. Prior to joining MAC, he provided legislative support and analysis as a Research Analyst with the Michigan House of Representatives. He has a B.A. in history from Michigan State University. Casey monitors the flow of legislation and assists the other team members with scheduling and legislative research.



Contact: steffee@micounties.org